

News Release

Horticulture Students from the U of M Crookston Place Second at Annual Mid-America Collegiate Horticulture Society Competition

By Sue Jacobson, Elizabeth Tollefson on Friday, March 23, 2007

CROOKSTON, Minn. (March 23, 2007) – Students from the University of Minnesota,



(l to r) Alex Wendorf, Meghan Estvold, Traci Richter, Scott Hoffman, (kneeling) Cayla Wieland

Crookston (UMC) took second place at the 34th annual Mid-America Collegiate Horticulture Society (MACHS) 2007 meeting and competition held recently at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Senior, Alex Wendorf, a natural resource major and horticulture minor from Lyle, Minn., placed first in the written horticulture knowledge exam.

Along with Wendorf, team members included Meghan Estvold, Lakota, N.D.; Traci Richter, Hewitt, Minn.; Scott Hoffman, Crookston, Minn.; and Cayla Wieland, East Grand Forks, Minn. . Areas of competition included judging of all types of horticulture crops and identification of both herbaceous and woody plants, along with the written knowledge exam.

“The MACHS competition is very difficult and competitive,” explains Sue Jacobson, horticulture instructor at UMC. “UMC is a very small campus to compete in the contest. Our students rose to the challenge and performed extremely well. They showed the quality of the graduates that we are sending into the industry.” Assisting Jacobson as coach was Theresa Helgeson, lab services coordinator.

Other colleges competing in MACHS were Michigan State, Missouri State University, Iowa State University, Northwest Missouri State University, University of Illinois and the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, who will serve as next year’s host for the competition.

The MACHS organization and contest provide a means of communication between horticulture clubs of participating schools. Sharing knowledge and ideas is an important part of the gathering. This year’s tours in Indianapolis included Heartland Growers, a supplier for Wal-Mart and Lowes stores and the Engledow Group, a company responsible for creating business environments for thousands of industries. The students also toured McNamara Florists, one of the top ranking florists in the nation.

For more information about the MACHS competition or the horticulture program at UMC, visit www.UMCrookston.edu/academics or call 218-281-8118 (sjacobso@umn.edu).

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. UMC is dedicated to helping students and the region aim higher, reach further and dream bigger dreams. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

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